

Message Text

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R 191857Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 178127

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, GB

SUBJECT: GAO SURVEY: "INTERNATIONAL OIL MARKET SYSTEM"

1. AT REQUEST OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, U.S. CONGRESS, GAO IS UNDERTAKING STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL OIL MARKETING SYSTEM. TO GATHER DATA, GAO PERSONNEL HAVE VISITED A NUMBER OF OPEC POSTS. FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, NOTABLY ECUADOR, GAO HAS ACHIEVED SATISFACTORY RESULTS BY SENDING LIST OF QUESTIONS TO POST FOR REPLY.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO RESPOND TO BEST OF ITS ABILITY TO FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A) WHAT IS RELATIONSHIP OF GABON TO OPEC AND OIL COMPANIES?

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B) HOW ARE PRODUCTION DECISIONS MADE (PAST, PRESENT,

FUTURE)? -- ROLE OF OIL MINISTRY, STATE-OWNED OIL COMPANY, PRIVATE OIL COMPANY, US EMBASSY, OPEC, OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS?

C) WHAT ARE TERMS OF ACCESS? -- TYPE OF CONTRACT CONCESSION; --TERMS OF SUPPLY, PRODUCTION SHARE EQUITY, BUY-BACK

RIGHTS; -- TAX/ROYALTY ARRANGEMENTS; -- PRICING ARRANGEMENTS, DISCOUNTS, DIFFERENTIALS, TERMS OF PAYMENT; -- OTHER ARRANGEMENTS, TRAINING PROGRAMS, DEVELOPMENT COMMITMENTS, PR REQUIREMENTS?

D) WHAT ARE TRENDS AND TERMS OF FUTURE DEVELOPMENT BY MULTINATIONAL OIL COMPANIES, E.G., EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, REFINING, TRANSPORTATION, MARKETING, TECHNOLOGY?

E) WHAT ARE TRENDS OF STATE OIL COMPANY? -- STRUCTURE, MANAGEMENT POTENTIAL, TRAINING OF NATIONALS, AVAILABILITY OF PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANTS; -- AVAILABILITY OF NECESSARY CAPITAL (CURRENT ACCOUNTS SURPLUS, FOREIGN INVESTORS, INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES)?

F) HOW DOES OIL FIT INTO GABON'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN? -- PLANS FOR SPINOFF INDUSTRIES; -- AS A SOURCE FOR INDUSTRY AND OTHER ECONOMIC ACTIVITY?

G) WHAT PLANS DOES GABON HAVE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF OIL/ENERGY? HOW DO THESE PLANS COORDINATE WITH OPEC? -- REFINING AND MARKETING; -- DOWNSTREAM INTEGRATION; -- UPSTREAM PRODUCTION, EXPLORATION?

H) HOW WILL THE GOG RELY ON INTERNATIONAL LENDING ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS?

3. DEPARTMENT REALIZES BURDEN THIS TASK PLACES ON NEW ECON/CML OFFICER AT POST. DEADLINE FOR REPLY EXTENDED BEYOND THAT ORIGINALLY REQUESTED BY GAO, TO AUGUST 31. FURTHER BACKGROUND MATERIALS FOLLOW BY NEXT POUCH. KISSINGER

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